

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-42 are pending in the present response. Claims 1-26 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 27-42 have been added by the present response. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed, at least, at pages 13-33. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title was objected to in matters of form; Claims 15 and 16 were objected to as including informalities; Claims 14-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 14-17, 22, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Jamieson et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0034959, herein “Jamieson”); Claims 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Jamieson in view of Nysen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,252,979); Claims 19, 21, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Jamieson in view of Herrmann et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0151513, herein “Herrmann”); and Claims 20 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Jamieson in view of Herrmann and Nysen.

With regard to the objection to the Title, Applicants have submitted a replacement Title. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the Title be withdrawn.

With regard to the objection to Claims 15 and 16 as containing informalities, Applicants have canceled Claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 15 and 16 be withdrawn as moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, Applicants have canceled Claims 14-26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn as moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Jamieson, this rejection is moot in view of the cancelation of Claim 14. New Claim 27 recites, *inter alia*,

a passive slave node including a first passive transmitter configured to modulate and reflect external RF signals, said passive slave node being configured to transmit data to the master node by modulated backscatter communication using the first passive transmitter; and

an active slave node including a second passive transmitter configured to modulate and reflect external RF signals and a first active transmitter configured to transmit a modulated signal independently, said active slave node being configured to transmit data to the passive slave node using the first active transmitter,

wherein the master node is configured to wake up the passive slave node or the active slave node from a sleep state at any time by transmitting a wake-up signal to the passive slave node or the active slave node.

Jamieson describes a duty cycle type system where slave stations SL1 to SL5 adopt a sleep mode in which they consume very little power but periodically wake up to detect beacon signals.¹ However, Claim 27 recites “the master node is configured to wake up the passive slave node or the active slave node from a sleep state at any time by transmitting a wake-up signal to the passive slave node or the active slave node.” This distinguishes Claim 27 from Jamieson because the master node wakes up the slave nodes.

Claim 27 recites “a passive slave node including a first passive transmitter,” and “an active slave node including a second passive transmitter configured to modulate and reflect external RF signals and a first active transmitter configured to transmit a modulated signal independently.” While paragraph [0029] of Jamieson describes that the slave stations may have long and short wake up intervals and may be able to dynamically change their interval lengths, this is not equivalent to a passive slave node having a first passive transmitter and an

¹ See Jamieson at paragraph [0024].

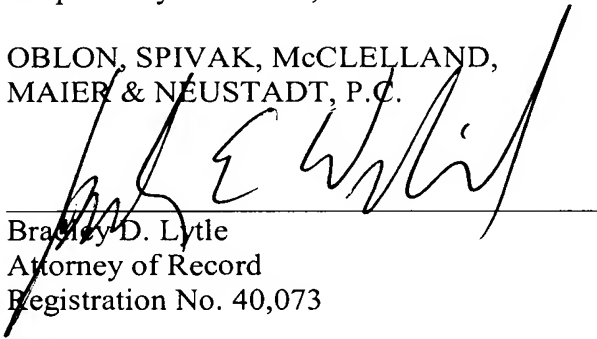
active slave node having a second passive transmitter and a first active transmitter. Thus, Jamieson does not describe or render obvious “a passive slave node including a first passive transmitter,” and “an active slave node including a second passive transmitter configured to modulate and reflect external RF signals and a first active transmitter configured to transmit a modulated signal independently,” as recited in Claim 27.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 27 (and any claims dependent therefrom) patentably distinguish over Jamieson. With respect to the further cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that the further cited Nysen and Herrmann references do not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Jamieson. This is because neither of these references describe a master slave node, passive slave node, and an active slave node as recited in Claim 27.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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